

REMARKS

Claims 9, 14, 15 and 22 are pending in this application. Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that claim 23 contains allowable subject matter.

By this Amendment, claim 9 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claim 23 to place this application in condition for allowance with claims 9, 14, 15 and 22. Claim 23 is canceled.

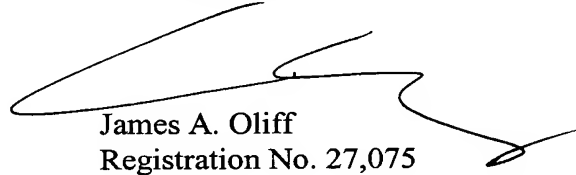
The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge consideration of the references listed on, and to return an initialed copy of, the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the November 6, 2006 Information Disclosure Statement.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); and (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GXL/sqb

Date: January 3, 2007

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